

# Ravalli County Weed District

329 Stevi Airport Road ~ Stevensville, Mt. 59870  
Phone (406)-777-5842~Fax (406) 777-0500 Email: Kellieann\_rcwd@yahoo.com

## ***WEED BOARD MEETING ON the county weed management plan 01/20/09***

Members present: Lance Brown, Tim Tackes, Sherry Lee, Randy Maxwell Larry Trexler, Bobbie Roos, and Kellieann Morris.

Others present: JR Iman, Melissa Maggio, and Shane Arnott.

The Ravalli County Weed Management Plan was reviewed and changes discussed and made.

- Kellie stated that she want to cancel the hotline for the spraying activities since we now post them on the website and last season no complained that the hot line no longer was updated and referred people to the website. This will save \$20 / month.
- The noxious weed list needs to be updated to include the new state listed weeds, Hoary Alyssum, Japanese Knotweed, Blueweed, Flowering rush, and add a category 4 (watch list) which includes Scotch Broom. Also remove Blueweed from our county weed list.
- It was suggested and adopted that Field Scabious (*Knautia arvensis*) be added to the County Noxious Weed List. This weed is noxious in Alberta and other Montana counties and is along the roads up the east and west forks.
- Tim suggested the board develop its own priority list for the noxious weed in Ravalli County so we can better focus on the real weed problems we are trying to deal with each season. Bobbie said that could be made an addendum to the weed management plan so it could be updated independently.
- The board would like to have Montana Rail Link submit to us a weed management plan for their entire right of way not just the tracks and the track bed.
- We need to address the wording for broadcast treatments on MDT state highways.
- Weed Management Areas (WMA) change from year to year.
- Subdivisions; the wording on subdivision needs to be changed.
- The wording in "Letter of complaint" needs to be changed.

Meeting notes taken prior the regular weed board meeting on 1/20/09.

Shane Arnott

# Ravalli County Weed District

329 Stevi Airport Road ~ Stevensville, Mt. 59870  
Phone (406)-777-5842~Fax (406) 777-0500 Email: Kellieann\_rcwd@yahoo.com

## **WEED BOARD MEETING ON 01/20/09**

**Members present:** Lance Brown, Tim Tackes, Sherry Lee, Randy Maxwell Larry Trexler, Bobbie Roos, and Kellieann Morris.

**Others present:** JR Iman, Melissa Maggio, and Shane Arnott.

**12/9/08 Minutes:** The minutes from the 12/9/08 meeting were emailed to all board members. Larry motioned to approve and Sherry seconded the minutes from 12/9/08 as is. Board approved.

**Board Reports:** Tim reported that the Open Lands Board approved its first property. Tim also commented that he recently attended the MWCA meeting with the weed district personnel. Tim stated that many counties had representation from their County Commission and it was very evident that the most successful county weed programs had county commissioners that were actively involved.

**Forest Service Report:** No forest report. Kellie commented that she and Gil will be working on the interagency meeting.

**Education Report:** Melissa discussed her report and was attached with the coordinators report.

**Coordinator's Report:** Kellie read her coordinators report and copies were handed out along with the education report.

### **Old Business:**

- **Commissioner's Conflict of interest meeting:** Kellie handed out documents forwarded from Karen Mahar concerning the code for conflict of interest. Kellie summarized that potential conflicts of interests need to be discussed and decided on or it can go in front of the commissioners. More on this subject will come up in the MACO meeting in March.
- **Meeting with the Road Dept.:** Kellie reported on this meeting with Dave Ohnsted during her coordinators report. Outcomes were to work together to try some roadside burning, revegetation and working on trying to get the road dept. a wash station for their yard
- **Other old Business:** None

### **New Business:**

- **Elect weed board officers:** Lance nominated Sherry Lee for chairperson; Tim nominated Randy Maxwell for chairperson. Larry moved that Sherry be the Chair and Randy be the Vice Chair. Motion was seconded and board approved. It was also moved and approved that Shane continued to record the minutes as acting secretary.
- **MWCA annual conference:** Kellie reported on the annual MWCA conference in her report. She also asked the board about attending the Idaho Weed Conference in the future to establish relationships dealing with our long common boarder.
- **Subdivision / Gravel Pit Review:** None.
- **Other New Business:**
  - **Revised subdivision process and Fee increase:** Kellie informed the board that a fee increase meeting with the commissioners was soon and the board needed to approve a new subdivision fee structure to reflect the real costs of implementing and administering the new subdivision weed management plan. Kellie handed out a summary of the time and costs to inspect and administer and proposed subdivision of average size. There was much discussion on how to structure the fees including input from Commissioner JR Iman. The final adopted fee structure is as follows: Two fee collecting inspections will be performed; one at pre-plat when their weed management plan is submitted for approval and one at final to inspect that all required weed management and re-vegetation actions were completed. The fees are \$300 at pre-plat and \$300 at final for a minor subdivision of any acreage. Major subdivisions will have the same structure as the minors plus will have an additional per lot charge of \$75.00

each at final. Larry motioned to approve the fee structure and Randy seconded. Randy motioned to approve the revised subdivision process and Sherry seconded.

- **Voluntary Agreements:** Kellie summarized again the new proposed process for the “voluntary agreements” that was written and proposed last winter. The new program is called the “Landowner Roadside Management” program. She stated that the current problem in that most of the ‘I control my own’ signs are faded and landowners have not maintained them so they are visible. We would like to start with all new signs and re-sign everyone up using the new program and forms. The board commented that maybe we should get rid of these all together since they take a tremendous amount of time to administer and create nothing but upset people disrupting our work. They also commented that they never felt like they could enforce them because our county roads look so bad. Kellie reminded the board that the Weed District is following the county weed management plan but many of the voluntary agreements are not following their own plans. The board is also concerned that these agreements actually expose us to higher liability and exposure to a lawsuit then if we had no agreements at all. Kellie also reminded the board that we have come a long way with some of these folks and she would hate to destroy that. Tim moved to approve the new roadside program and Larry seconded.
- **Enforcing the Weed Law:** Kellie stated enforcement of the weed law is still on the table and all of these issues are still with the County Attorney for review. The board stated that we need backing!

- **Public Input:** None

Meeting adjourned at 8.30 pm

Next meeting will be February 10th at 7:00 pm in the extension office meeting room.

Respectfully submitted,

Shane Arnott

The regular weed board was preceded by with a meeting to go over, discuss and change where needed on the Ravalli County Noxious Weed Management Plan. Minutes for this meeting were handled separately.

**Approved 2/10/09**